

ABSTRACT

In a method of improving a characteristic of an image according to its material content, where the image is comprised of image pixels, a belief map
5 corresponding spatially to the image pixels is generated. The belief map includes belief values indicating the likelihood that respective pixels are representative of a particular material, such as flesh. An improvement parameter is generated from the belief map, and the improvement parameter is applied uniformly to the image
10 pixels to improve the characteristic, such as the sharpness, of the image.